

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 PM-03 DODE-00 INR-05
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4465
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1130

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GE FR UK UR US
SUBJ: MAY 1 PARADE IN EAST BERLIN AND ALLIED COVERAGE

REFS: A) BERLIN 5852; B) USBERLIN 1030(NOTAL); C) USBERLIN 1037

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ARTICLE CITED REF A AS WELL AS
ABSENCE OF MILITARY HARDWARE IN EAST BERLIN THIS CLOSE TO
MAY 1 PARADE HAS CAUSED THREE ALLIED HEADQUARTERS HERE
TO ALTER ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR MAY 1 PARADE WHICH IN
PAST HAS BEEN OCCASION FOR DEMONSTRATION OF MILITARY
HARDWARE. US WILL MAINTAIN ITS NORMAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
OF THREE FLAG TOURS ON MAY 1 BUT THEY WILL BE INSTRUCTED
TO STAY AWAY FROM PARADE AND NO EFFORT BEYOND T.V.
WATCHING WILL BE MOUNTED TO COVER EVENT. BRITISH AND
FRENCH WILL FOLLOW THEIR NORMAL FLAG TOUR SEQUENCE
WITHOUT RAISING THE FREQUENCY AS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE
PAST IN THE PERIOD PRIOR TO MAY 1. BRITISH WILL PRO-
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HIBIT MEMBERS OF BRITISH FORCES FROM VISITING EAST BERLIN
ON MAY 1. FRENCH ARE IN PROCESS OF DECIDING WHETHER
TO TAKE SIMILAR STEP. US WILL FOLLOW NORMAL PRACTICE
OF CANCELLING RECREATION SERVICES BUS TOURS TO EAST
BERLIN ON MAY 1, BUT WILL NOT BAR MEMBERS OF US FORCES
FROM VISITING EAST BERLIN ON THAT DAY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AIR, ALL THREE MISSIONS HAVE INSTRUCTED PILOTS NOT TO DESCEND BELOW 1,000 FT. "OVER THE CONGESTED AREAS OF CITIES, TOWNS, SETTLEMENTS, OR OPEN AIR ASSEMBLIES OF PERSONS," NOR BELOW 500 FT. OVER OTHER AREAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1946 FLIGHT REGULATIONS. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED CUSTOMARY SOVIET REQUEST IN BASIC TO KEEP AIRCRAFT AWAY FROM MAY 1 PARADE WHICH WE WILL DO EVEN WITHOUT A REQUEST IN LINE WITH DECISION IN PARA. 1 NOT TO COVER PARADE.

3. PRELIMINARY FEELING OF MISSIONS IS THAT PRESENCE OF KAMPFGRUPPEN AND/OR AN NVA OR VOPO BAND WOULD NOT JUSTIFY TRADITIONAL COMMANDANTS' PROTEST OF VIOLATION OF DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF BERLIN. BESIDES THE CONSTANT PROBLEM THAT SUCH PROTESTS CARRY LITTLE WEIGHT, THE EAST GERMANS APPEAR TO HAVE REMOVED ALMOST ALL THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE MAY 1 CELEBRATION, THUS, IN EFFECT, HONORING OUR PROTESTS OF PREVIOUS YEARS.

4. AS ALWAYS, WE WILL COVER THE PARADE ON TELEVISION TO INSURE THAT THERE ARE NO LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN WHAT WE UNDERSTAND THE EAST GERMAN PLANS TO BE.

5. USCOB CONCURS.DAVIS

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